and Hu Hai, the second son of Shih Huang Ti, substituted for it a letter commanding the eldest son to commit suicide. They also fabricated a decree of the late Emperor appointing Hu Hai to the succession. This cold-blooded plot was entirely successful.

The eldest son accepted the spurious missive as genuine and complied with its command. Arrived at the capital, the conspirators met with no important opposition. Hu Hai mounted the throne as firh Shih Huang Ti, "The Second Generation Emperor," and had his father's remains placed in a huge tomb that had long been in building.

Ssu-ma Ch'ien, writing something over a hundred years later, tells marvelous stories of this sepulchre—saying that it was hollowed out of a mountain, that in it were a reproduction of the heavens and a map of the Empire, that it was stored with riches, that it was guarded by machines so ingeniously devised that they would discharge arrows on any intruder, that the workmen who had perfected the final arrangements were sealed alive in the tomb to prevent them from divulging its secrets, and that the place was then planted to give it the aspect of a natural mountain. How much the story grew with the telling we do not know, but a lofty tumulus is still pointed out as the remains of the grave.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE CH'IN DYNASTY

The Ch'in dynasty did not long survive the death of its first monarch. The changes introduced by the conqueror had been so drastic, his laws so severe, and the burden of his public works so heavy, that once his strong hand was removed an upheaval was almost inevitable. The former rivals of Ch'in, too, had not been

so thoroughly crushed and welded into the new Empire but that adherents were found who sought to revive at least the strongest of them. Certainly only an extraordinarily able successor could have prevented or even postponed extensive rebellion, firh Shih Huang Ti was far from equal to the task. The eunuch Chao Kao soon completely dominated him. firh Shih Huang Ti added to the stringent laws of his father, continued the heavy taxation and the expensive construction of the great palace of his sire, and so severely punished those who criticized him that no official felt safe. The experienced advisers of the last reign were put out of the way, probably through the machinations of Chao Kao. Meng